

A lifelong Democrat and a staunch defender of women's rights, Ann Torrey was born in Hollywood, California on December 1, 1911. As a child she learned an early and important lesson—the power of civic activism. While still an infant, Ann's mother pushed her in a baby carriage during the historic marches for women's suffrage.

Ann Torrey also understood the power of an education—she devoted much of her adult life to teaching young women and men to succeed in their societies. Between 1937 and 1949, Ann Torrey taught students in Monterey, California, Shanghai, China and Menlo Park, California. From 1949 to 1976 she distinguished herself as an elementary school teacher in the Redwood City School District. Ann Torrey was proud to be a teacher and believed firmly in the value of an education for all.

A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Ann Torrey received her teaching credential from San Jose State University. In 1966, she went back to school to earn her Master's in Education at Stanford University. A long-time resident of Redwood City, California, Ann Torrey moved to State College, Pennsylvania in 1998 in order to be closer to her grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's children lost an important role model and a selfless teacher with the passing of Ann Torrey. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great and good woman, and offer the condolences of the entire House of Representatives to her family.

A SALUTE TO BERKELEY CITY COUNCILMEMBER AND VICE MAYOR MAUELLE SHIREK IN HONOR OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor today to salute and celebrate the 90th birthday of a Berkeley legend, City Councilmember and Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek.

Maudelle was born the grandchild of slaves in Jefferson, Arkansas. Having been raised to be socially conscious and responsible, upon her arrival in the San Francisco Bay Area more than 50 years ago, she immediately plunged into the civil rights struggles of the day.

One of the main issues of the post-WWII era was fair housing. Landlords often refused to rent to African Americans and new housing was built with discriminatory covenants not allowing Blacks to buy houses in certain areas. Maudelle was a key leader in the struggle for fair housing that culminated in California Assemblyman Rumford's Fair Housing Act.

Maudelle also helped shape the political future of this country by persuading a young University of California graduate student named Ron Dellums to run for Congress. I worked with and was mentored and trained by Congressman Dellums. Without Maudelle's influence on Ron, I may not be in Congress today.

Wherever she has worked, Maudelle has been an organizer. Serving as Director of the West Berkeley Senior Center, she simultaneously was on the State Executive Board of Service Employees International Union, Local 535. When Berkeley bureaucrats claimed she was too old to run the senior center, she ran for City Council and won. She is now serving her seventh term on the Council and has been

re-elected by larger margins with each progressive election.

Maudelle was the first Berkeley City Councilmember, and one of the first elected officials in the state, to take action against the AIDS pandemic by sponsoring educational materials, needle-exchange programs and housing for AIDS patients. When the county hospital tried to close its facilities serving AIDS patients, she chained herself to the doors to call attention to the plight of AIDS victims. As a result of her efforts, that facility remains open today.

Maudelle has been an incredible influence in my life. Maudelle taught me that I was not only a citizen of the United States but a citizen of the world. While a student at Mills College, Maudelle helped me organize the Black Student Union's study mission trip to Ghana, Africa where she spent one month with the students. Her insight and counsel greatly enriched their experience.

As a leader of the peace movement, Maudelle introduced me to the movement and shared with me her valuable and critical insight into United States foreign policy and international affairs. I have travelled with Maudelle to many countries and witnessed first hand her interaction with world leaders. They are inspired by her brilliance and her clarity of the issues affecting the global community.

Maudelle continues to be persistent in the fight to reorder our national priorities. Reducing the military budget in order to improve the quality of life for people has been the cornerstone of her work for social, political and economic justice.

Maudelle is a role model and a tireless worker for civil and human rights, peace and justice. I proudly join her many friends and colleagues in honoring Maudelle for 90 years of service and commitment to bettering the lives of her fellow citizens, community members and constituents.

Congratulations Maudelle and thank you for your wonderful example and inspiration.